



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF MUSIC

The Vocalis Series is made possible through a generous gift from Dianne W. Henderson.

Voice Studies at the University of Toronto presents

A Woman For All Seasons

November 21, 2019 at 12:10 pm
Walter Hall

PROGRAMME

Spring (from *Four Seasons Ballade*) Alice Ping Yee Ho (b.1960)
Katy Clark, soprano; Christine Bae, pianist

Always Springtime Carol Ann Weaver (b.1948)
Sydney Trotter, soprano; Mélisande Sinsoulier, pianist

In Spring Shelley Elizabeth Marwood
Alexandra Delle Donne, soprano; Dakota Scott-Digout, pianist

Summer (from *Green and Gold*) Jana Skarecky (b.1957)
Lauren Estey, soprano; Dakota Scott-Digout, pianist

In the Summer* Nephenee Rose (b.1991)
Tiffanie Samuels, soprano ; Mélisande Sinsoulier, pianist

The Autumn Leaves Maria Eduarda Martins (b.1990)
Loren Graziano, soprano; Mélisande Sinsoulier, pianist

Night Marla Kishimoto (b.1986)
Nicole Percifield, mezzo-soprano; Dakota Scott-Digout, pianist

Night in October Ruth Watson Henderson (b.1932)
Alexandra Brennan, soprano; Christine Bae, pianist

Lady Icicle (from *Singing in the Northland*) Martha Hill Duncan (b.1955)
Julia Barber, mezzo-soprano; Christine Bae, pianist

Snow (from *Lullabies*)

Cecilia Livingston (b.1984)

Julia Barber, mezzo-soprano; Meilin Wei, marimba

Winter Lullaby

Carmen Braden (b.1985)

Camille Rogers, mezzo-soprano; Meilin Wei, marimba

*premiere

PROGRAMME NOTES

Spring, the first song of larger work *Four Seasons Ballade* by Alice Ping Yee Ho, is inspired by the Four Seasons poems by Li Bai of the Tang Dynasty. The piece is a sweet lament expressing the sorrows of a young woman. While calmly plucking mulberries and admiring the beautiful landscape in early spring, she sadly watches the departure of her loved ones going to war.

Always Springtime, music by Carol Ann Weaver, lyrics by Canadian poet Judith Miller, is part of a larger song cycle, *I Have Been a Traveller*, which tracks through the seasons, following wild birds and other animals and aspects of the natural world. The song evokes renewal, energy, and the start of a compelling journey into life.

In Spring is based on text from Song of Solomon 2. In this biblical "Springtime Rhapsody" the writer invites their beloved to come away and explore the new life of spring together. This setting creates a gentle, peaceful atmosphere, with lilting melodies, rich harmonies, and the pure, open sound of the perfect fifth interval throughout.

In the words of composer Jana Skarecky, her song **Summer** is "exuberantly green and flourishes with evocative images of life, fertility, and celebration. The piano interludes between sections flow easily between triplet and duplet rhythms, reflecting the variety of plant life in the summer." The song is from a set of three called *Green and Gold* with text by Canadian poet P.K. Page.

Inspired by the poem of the same name by Syrian poet Nizar Qabbani (1923-1998), **In the Summer** is a humble, tender, yet deeply passionate declaration of love. The piece, written especially for the "A Woman for all Seasons" concert, attempts to reflect the honest and understated self-awareness of Qabbani's narrator; one who seems to know full well that they cannot capture in words alone all that they feel, and embraces that fact with neither pride nor shame, but with a sense of awe.

The Autumn Leaves, music by composer Maria Eduarda Mendes Martins, poem by Tavana Chikhak is a piece that thoughtfully expresses the essence of a Canadian fall: the colourful leaves, the cool, wet and grey skies, the arrival of shorter days, and of course, the carved pumpkins. The piece was composed for East Vancouver Opera's concert "The Fall."

The song **Night**, as described by composer Marla Kishimoto is a "piece (that) was born out of the image of a lonely young girl who doesn't realize she's a spirit, wandering an autumn forest at night, looking futilely for somewhere to belong."

Night in October, composed by Ruth Watson Henderson with text by Canadian poet Miriam Waddington for the Canadian Music Centre's 35th Anniversary concert, is about the narrator's wild and eventful dream on a night in

October. The music and poetry take the listener to a place many of us have been before: a dream that can hardly be understood, and is forgotten moments later upon waking.

Composed by Martha Hill Duncan, text by Canadian poet E. Pauline Johnson, the song **Lady Icicle** from song cycle *Singing in the Northland*, tells the story of a little icicle who awakens from a long dream and dusts the rivers, lakes, and land with her icy frost and snow.

Snow, is one of two songs from the song set *Lullabies* by Cecilia Livingston, who wrote them or percussionist Michelle Colton after hearing a recording of her singing and playing one of her own pieces. The text, dealing with wintry themes, is by Walter de la Mare - poetry that Cecilia first met when she was a small child. The piece has a quiet intimacy but also a darkness that speaks to the power of winter nights.

Winter Lullaby, written by composer Carmen Braden, is a lullaby for the winter season who is going to sleep in the spring. It was inspired by listening to the ice breaking of Great Slave Lake, near Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. It is sung from the point of view of a frozen lake and describes the beautiful, colourful, dynamic process of the break-up of the ice.

Upcoming Performances:

OPERA DIVISION

Mozart: The Marriage of Figaro	Nov-21 7:30 PM MacMillan Theater
Mozart: The Marriage of Figaro	Nov-22 7:30 PM MacMillan Theater
Mozart: The Marriage of Figaro	Nov-23 7:30 PM MacMillan Theater
Mozart: The Marriage of Figaro	Nov-24 2:30 PM MacMillan Theater

TUESDAY PERFORMANCE CLASS FOR SINGERS

Nov-26 | 12:10 PM | Walter Hall

First Year Undergraduate Singers in Performance

VOCAL JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Nov-27 | 7:30 PM | Walter Hall

Vocal Jazz Ensemble and 11 O'Clock Jazz Orchestra

FRIDAY NIGHT FLIGHTS

Nov-29 | 5:15 PM | Boyd Neel

Alex Samaras: Crossing Over Into Cross Over